



# GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### DOR Conducts Amusement Machine Inspections

ATLANTA—Georgia Department of Revenue agents issued six citations and seized 26 coin operated amusement machines during compliance inspections in Hart County on August 22.

“The agents inspected businesses that had amusement machines on the premises to ensure the machines were licensed in accordance with Georgia law,” said Revenue Commissioner T. Jerry Jackson.

Fourteen revenue agents visited 40 businesses within the county, during the day-long inspection that had been planned for several weeks.

Bona fide coin operated machines in Georgia require the payment of or the insertion of a coin to operate and must require some skill on the part of the player.

“Video poker machines became illegal in South Carolina in July and we have been receiving reports that many of those machines were being moved into Georgia,” said Commissioner Jackson. “DOR does not enforce gambling statutes but we are responsible for ensuring amusement machines are correctly licensed.”

Many of the inspected machines had South Carolina stickers attached to them.

“We will be meeting with GBI [Georgia Bureau of Investigation] officials to discuss further investigative and compliance efforts in these matters,” said Chet Bryant, Director of DOR’s Alcohol and Tobacco Division.

In Georgia, owners of coin operated amusement machines must purchase a master license, which has a fee ranging from \$250 to \$1,500 depending on the number of machines covered by the license. Each machine must have a sticker attached that cost \$25.

As of June 30, there were 834 master license holders in Georgia and there were 54,486 licensed machines. During FY 2000, more than \$1.8 million was collected in amusement machines fees.

During the inspections, DOR agents also issued two citations for alcohol violations.

“These inspections are the first in a series of inspections we intend to conduct to ensure that amusement machines are in compliance with Georgia’s licensing requirements,” Bryant stated.

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